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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
5 November 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 105  
(as of 0630 EST)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

(All times cited in military paragraphs are  
Cairo/Tel Aviv time, unless otherwise specified.)

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2. Israeli aircraft also were active on the  
Syrian front this morning.

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Rainy weather continues to hamper the movement of  
ground force units on the front.

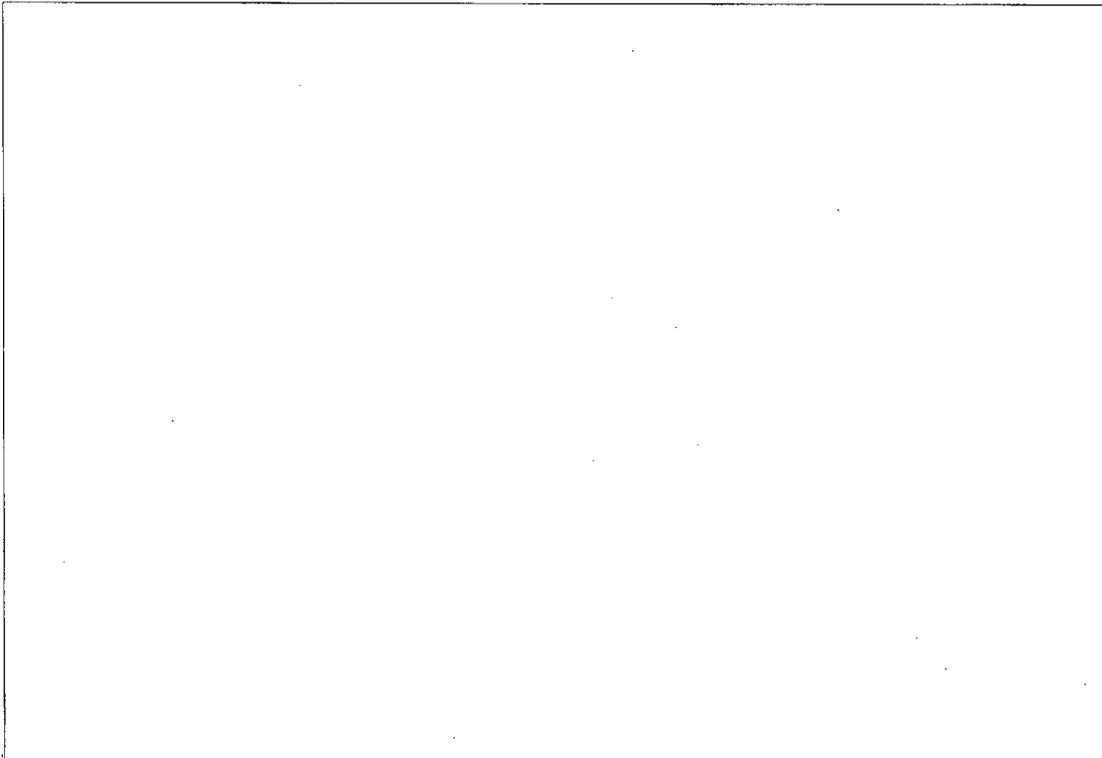
State Department  
review completed

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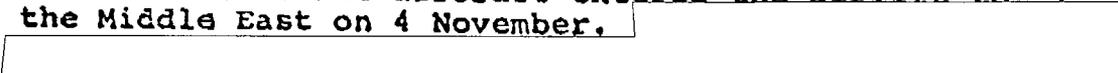
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SOVIET AIRLIFT

6. No Soviet aircraft entered the airlift to the Middle East on 4 November.



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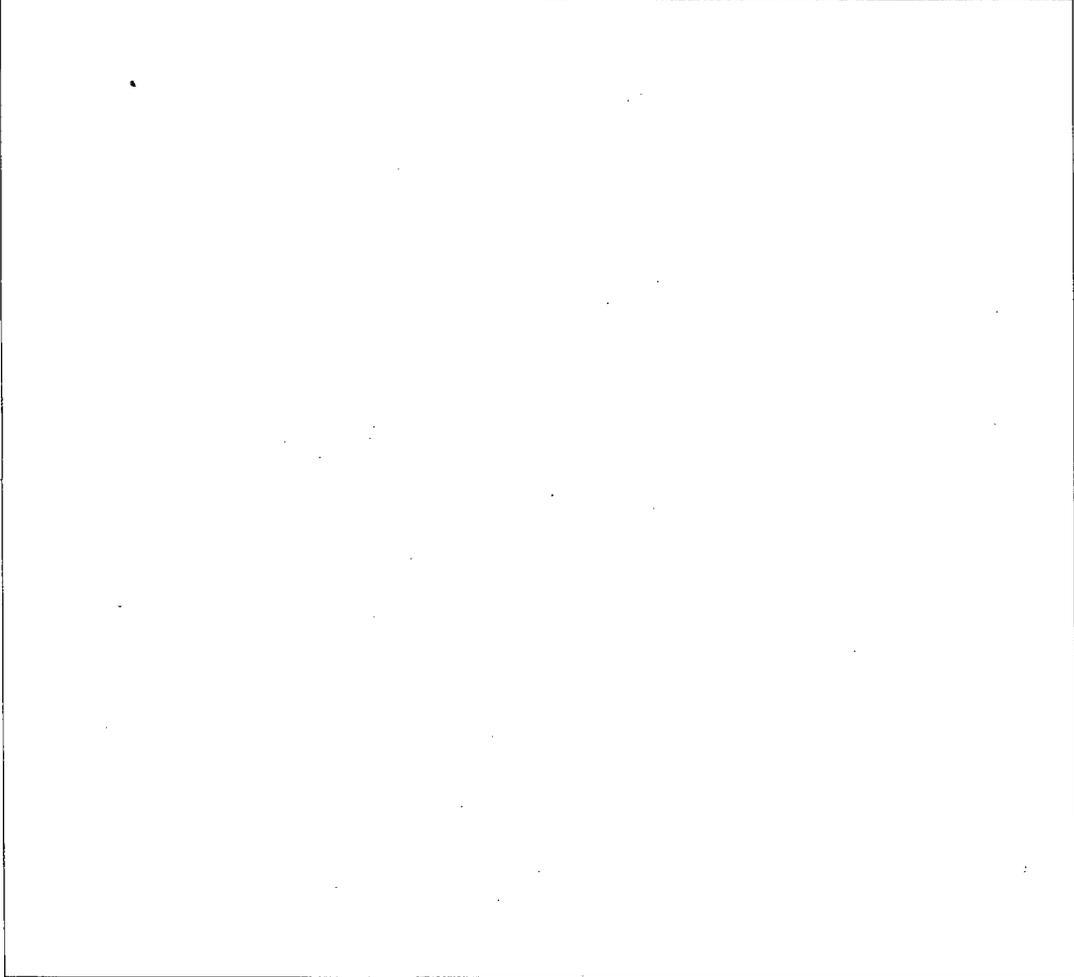
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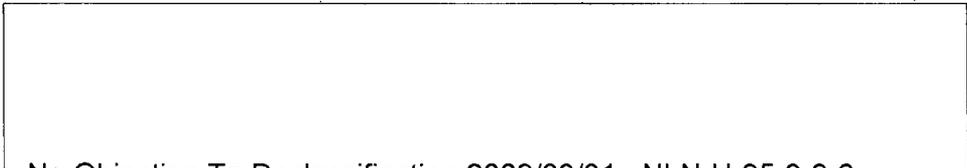
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SOVIET MIDDLE EAST COMMENTARY

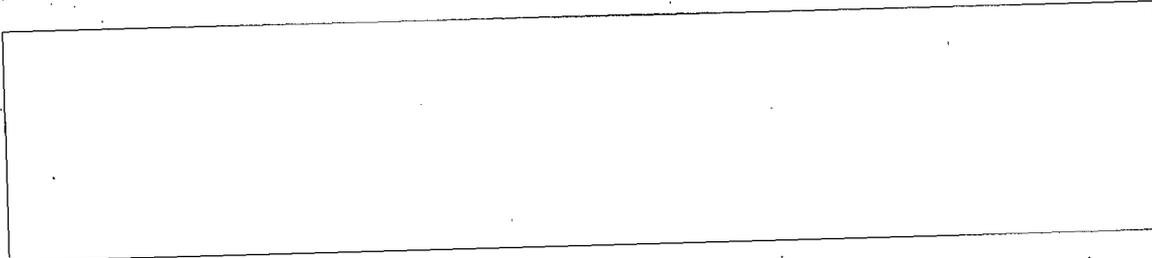
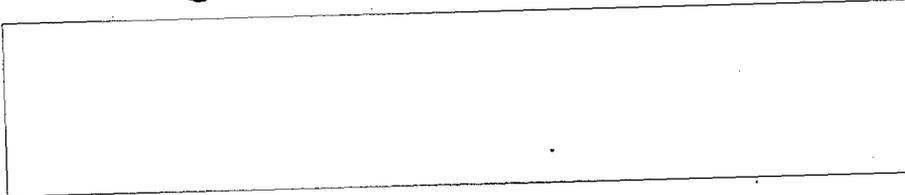
9. Moscow radio yesterday broadcast a discussion of the Middle East by an Izvestiya correspondent and an Izvestiya commentator. The correspondent says that the detente has gone through a serious trial, but that consultations between the US and the Soviet Union played a positive role in the drafting of a joint approach to a cease-fire. If detente were as illusory an affair as Peking continues to portray it, says the correspondent, "it would have evaporated like a light cloud."



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10. The commentator, who was in the US at the time of the alert of US forces, says a majority of US commentators linked the alert not with foreign policy, but with the administration's attempt to deflect public attention from its domestic difficulties. The commentator concludes that the "current complexity of US domestic political life" has left its imprint on US Middle East policy.

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OIL

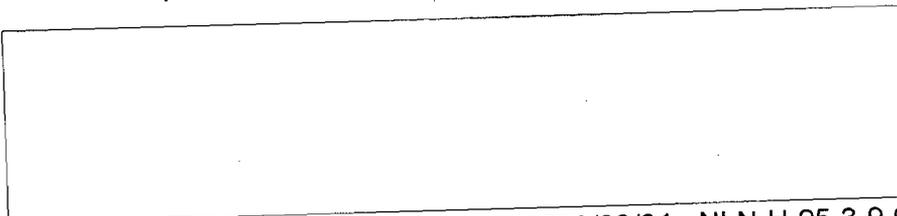
14. Arab oil ministers meeting in Kuwait last night announced a 25-percent production cutback based on September's production figures. Saudi Arabia, with the 10-percent limitation announced in mid-October and the additional embargoes of shipments to the US and the Netherlands, had already reached the 25-percent level, and the new formulation appears to strengthen King Faysal's leadership role by committing the other producers to match his cutback. The move may be designed to bring countries such as Libya, Algeria, and Iraq, which have not been rigorously enforcing the earlier limitation, into line. If adhered to, it will increase the overall Arab cutback in November by some five percent over that already in effect.

TORTURE OF ISRAELI POWS

15. The US Embassy in Amman relates an alleged Syrian denial that Damascus has been torturing Israeli prisoners. Rather, the Syrians charge, it has been the Moroccan forces, who reportedly suffered high casualties during the fighting, who are guilty of torture and even of mutilating dead Israeli soldiers.

ITALY: RELEASE OF TERRORISTS

16. An Italian Foreign Ministry official has confirmed the release of two Arab terrorists that were seized while preparing to shoot down an Israeli airliner near Rome last summer. The other three plotters are also likely to be released, he said. When arrested,



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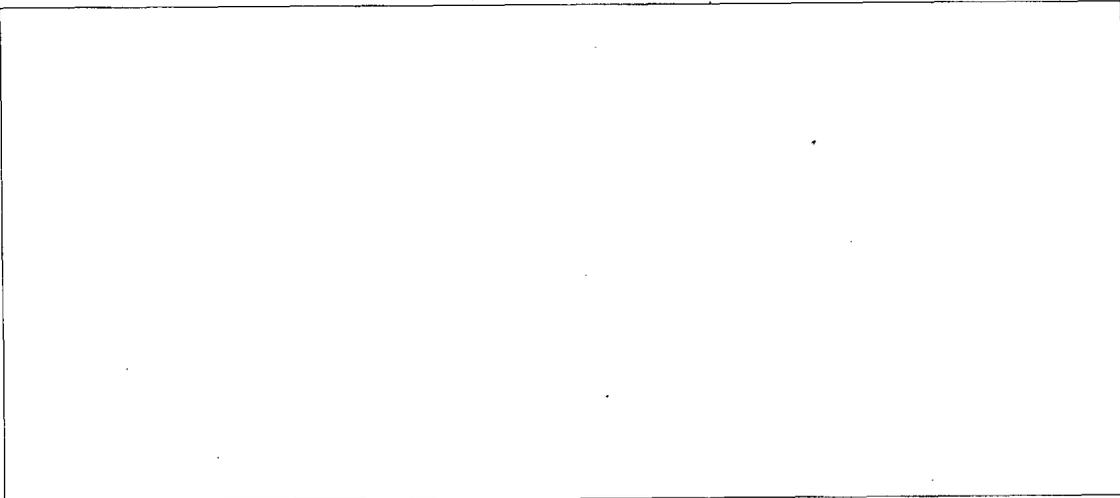
the five men had SA-7 Strela rockets--reportedly received through the Libyan diplomatic pouch--which they allegedly planned to fire at an El Al airliner approaching Rome airport.

UNITED NATIONS

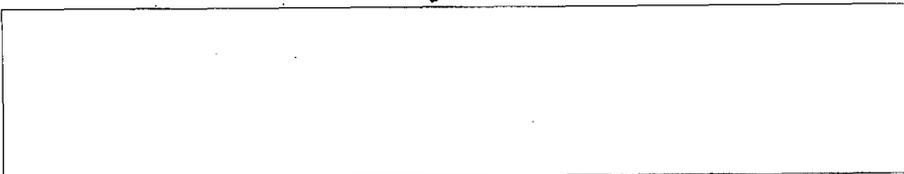
17. The General Assembly's finance Committee will consider this week plans for funding the UN Emergency Force (UNEF). There are no available funds and without a special UNEF assessment the peace-keeping operation could be threatened, as some of the states now preparing to contribute troops want assurances that the UN will pay the salaries and expenses of their units.

18. The USUN Mission has found little support for the proposal that UNEF costs be apportioned among UN members according to the regular scale of assessments. A Brazilian proposal, which appears to be gathering support among the less developed countries (LDC), would assess Security Council members for 70 percent of the total costs; the US and USSR would contribute 50 percent between them. Developed states that are not permanent Council members would accept 28 percent of the costs and LDCs would contribute the remaining 2 percent.

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LATE ITEMS

21. The UN regional control center at Qantara this morning ordered a UN patrol to proceed immediately to an area southeast of Ismailia to investigate a report that Egyptian forces were advancing on Israeli positions. Qantara warned the UN patrol that the Israelis were getting "excited" and that there may be a clash.

22. The commander of the Soviet Naval forces in the Mediterranean arrived in the port of Alexandria this morning aboard a submarine tender.

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